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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION  
Land Utilization Division  
Land Use Planning Section

BULLETIN OF FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING LAND USE

No. 295

Fortnight Ending July 29, 1937

(Primarily for the information of Land Use Planning Personnel of the Resettlement Administration and collaborating offices and agencies.)

Legislatures now in Special Session

Arizona (Convened July 22)  
Minnesota (Adjourned July 23)

Ohio (Adjourned by  
Governor's Executive Order to December 31, 1938)

Legislatures now in Regular Session

New Hampshire

I. FEDERAL LEGISLATION

GRAZING

H. R. 7874 Mr. Pierce

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease private lands for furthering the orderly use, improvement and development of grazing districts to be administered under the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act (48 Stat. 1976).

To Committee on Public Lands.

INTERSTATE COMPACTS

H. J. R. 435 Mr. Clason

S. J. R. 177 Mr. Walsh

To grant the consent of Congress to a compact relating to flood control in the Connecticut River Valley, negotiated under authority of the Federal Flood Control Act of 1936 and ratified by Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont.

To Committee on Flood Control in House, June 30.

To Committee on Commerce in Senate, July 10.

H. J. R. 436 Mr. Tobey

S. J. R. 178 Mr. Walsh

To grant the consent of Congress to the compact relative to flood control in the Merrimack River Valley, negotiated under the Federal Flood Control Act of 1936 and ratified by Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

To Committee on Flood Control June 30.



## PUBLIC LANDS

S. 2172 Mr. Bone.

To prevent speculation in lands in the Columbia Basin which will be irrigated through the Grand Coulee Dam project. No dam project funds are to be spent on irrigation and reclamation until a number of conditions have been complied with. Privately owned lands, including county and certain state lands to be irrigated shall be first appraised as the Secretary of the Interior prescribes, but without reference to the proposed irrigation works. A contract must be made with state-organized irrigation districts providing for payment by the district to the United States of that part of the cost of the project chargeable to irrigation, and the contract must provide that in general lands held by one person shall not be entitled to receive water as to that part in excess of 40 acres and that no water will be furnished until he agrees to sell the excess on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Secretary, who may require an irrevocable power of attorney to sell such excess as a condition precedent to furnishing water. Where any land is sold at more than the appraised value plus improvements and irrigation costs, the United States is entitled to from 50 to 100 per cent of the excess, depending on the length of time elapsing between making the sale and payment. The State must have consented to the provisions of the Act where they are within the jurisdiction or apply to State lands. The Secretary is authorized to spend \$350,000 of project funds for the survey and appraisal of irrigable lands of the project and for surveys and plans for irrigation works.

Approved May 27, Public Law 117, 75th Congress.

## SOIL CONSERVATION

H. R. 3687 Mr. Jones

To amend the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act to extend the period during which the purposes of the Act may be carried out from January 1, 1938 to January 1, 1942.

Approved June 28, Public Law 170, 75th Congress.

## TENANCY, REHABILITATION, SUBMARGINAL LAND

H. R. 7562 Messrs. Bankhead and Jones.

To promote the ownership of farm homes by authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Farmer's Home Corporation created under Title IV of the Act, to make loans to farm tenants, laborers and sharecroppers (preference to be given to married persons or those having dependent families), for the purchase of economic farm units. The Secretary is authorized to appoint in each county in which such activities are carried on a county committee of three resident farmers who shall examine applications for loans and appraise the farm for which the application is made, certifying to the Secretary as to the ability and character and likelihood of success upon the farm. Loans may be made, not exceeding the value of the farm certified by the committee, to acquire,



repair and improve the farm for a term of not more than forty nor less than five years at three per cent interest, the contract providing for amortization, prevention of waste, and that proper farming practices as prescribed by the Secretary will be carried out. The borrower shall pay the taxes and insurance and may not transfer or encumber the property without the consent of the Secretary. An appropriation is authorized of \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1938, \$25,000,000 for 1939, \$50,000,000 for each subsequent year and not exceeding 5% of any annual appropriation may be used for administrative expenses.

Title II provides for rehabilitation loans and funds may be allotted by the President from the Relief appropriations for such loans.

Title III authorizes the Secretary to develop a program of land conservation under which he may purchase submarginal lands. For this purpose there is an authorized appropriation of \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1938 and \$20,000,000 for each of the two fiscal years thereafter.

Title IV creates and provides for the operation of the corporation but its jurisdiction is limited to tenancy and rehabilitation. It may not exercise any powers under the submarginal purchase program. Property in the hands of beneficiaries, though title is in the Secretary, is subject to taxation. Property of the corporation or Secretary not in the hands of beneficiaries is tax exempt though the Secretary is authorized to make payments in lieu of taxes.

Approved July 22, Public Law No. 210, 75th Congress.

## II. STATE LEGISLATION

(Includes only outstanding proposals likely to be of interest to Legislatures other than the one in which the Bill is introduced.)

### INTERSTATE COMPACTS

Illinois S. B. 62 Mr. Monroe

To establish the Illinois Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation to be composed of five members of the Senate, five members of the House, and five appointed by the Governor, for the purpose of encouraging and assisting in establishing and maintaining contacts with other states, federal government, and local units of government. The Commission is also to facilitate the adoption of interstate compacts, uniform and reciprocal statutes, and provide for the interchange and clearance of research and information.

Approved July 8.

New Hampshire H. B. 467 Committee on Rules

To ratify a compact with Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont, relative to flood control in the Connecticut River Valley.

Approved June 30.



New Hampshire H. B. 476 Committee on Rules

To ratify a compact with the State of Massachusetts for the control of floods in the Merrimack River Basin.

Approved June 30.

#### LAND USE

Illinois H. B. 540

To authorize the Department of Public Works and Buildings to cooperate with the Federal Government in establishing and improving a system of secondary farm-to-market and feeder roads.

Approved July 9.

Illinois H. B. 955 Mr. Wilson

To authorize the establishment of Soil Conservation districts for the purpose of engaging in conserving soil resources and preventing and controlling soil erosion. This law follows the principles in the Standard Soil Conservation Districts Act of the Department of Agriculture. However, in holding a referendum vote for the establishment of the district and election of supervisors therefor, the petitioners are required to pay the expenses of such election.

Approved July 9.

New Jersey A. B. 509 Mr. DeVoe

To authorize the creation of soil conservation districts for the purpose of engaging in conserving soil resources and preventing and controlling soil erosion. This bill follows the principles of the Standard Soil Conservation Act of the Department of Agriculture.

Approved June 2 Laws 1937, Chap. 139.

Pennsylvania H. B. 1894 Mr. Ganser

To authorize the creation of soil conservation districts for the purpose of conserving soil, preventing and controlling of erosion. This bill is similar to the soil conservation districts law of the Department of Agriculture.

Approved July 2.

Pennsylvania H. B. 1959 Mr. Westrick

To accept the provision of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act and create an Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Committee as agency of the State to formulate and administer plans pursuant to the terms of the federal act. The agency may receive and disburse any funds appropriated in furtherance of the plans as approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. There is an appropriation of \$10,000 for the biennium.

Approved July 2, Laws 1937, Act No. 541.

Wisconsin A. B. 703 Committee on Agriculture

To authorize the creation of soil conservation districts to conserve soil resources. This bill is modeled after the standard Soil Conservation Districts Law of the Department of Agriculture.

Approved July 2, Laws 1937, Chap. 341.



Wisconsin S. 471 Joint Finance Committee

To authorize the State Highway Commission to cooperate with the Federal Government in the construction of secondary, farm-to-market and feeder roads under the Hayden-Cartwright Act (Public 686-74th Congress)

Approved July 13, Laws 1937, Chap. 393.

PUBLIC LANDS

Michigan S. 23. Messrs. Fehling and Palmer

To create a state Land Office Board (3 members appointed by the governor) to control, lease or sell tax-reverted lands belonging to the state in the counties north of and including the counties of Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, Medland and Arenac. The Board may sell the lands acquired for not less than the appraised value for cash or time payments. All lands under the jurisdiction of the Board shall be appraised and classified with a view toward rehabilitating such lands. The board is also authorized to provide for such use by the state or any political subdivision or make any other disposition for the best interests of the land, state or political subdivision. This act is to be effective to May 1, 1943.

Approved July 3, Laws 1937, Act No. 155.

REAL PROPERTY

Arizona H. B. 4XX Mr. Wisener

To stay foreclosure of mortgages for a period not longer than March 4, 1939.

Approved June 29.

Illinois S. 409 Mr. Menges

To authorize cities and counties to aid housing projects by furnishing parks, streets, improvements, facilities and services. The political subdivisions may contract with such housing authority for payment of such services and facilities. Law without approval, July 13.

Oklahoma H. B. 21, Mr. Kirkpatrick

To prevent the extinguishment of covenants running with the land by intervening tax deeds. This act makes certain that such covenants shall survive and are enforceable against a subsequent grantee.

Approved May 24.

TAXATION

Arizona H. B. 7XX Mr. Burk

All taxes levied against real and personal property delinquent October 3, 1936 shall be exempt from all penalties and interest if paid by December 6, 1937. This law amends Chapter 46, Laws of 1937 (H. B. 11, Bulletin 14, P. 8) by changing dates of applicability.

Approved June 28.



Arizona S. B. 9XX Mr. Jones

To authorize Boards of Directors of Irrigation, agricultural improvement, drainage and power districts to compromise taxes in all cases where the lands are not worth the amount of the taxes and where the lands were not capable of profitable cultivation.

Approved June 26.

Wisconsin A. B. 781 Mr. Peterson

To extend the forest crop law to villages

Approved July 13, Laws 1937, Chap. 413.

H. A. Hockley

